

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended):     A wheelchair, comprising:

an assembly of a chair unit for a user and a support base supporting the chair unit, wherein the support base is provided with a number of carrying wheels for carrying the assembly,

carrying wheel drive means connected to ~~the said assembly; for driving at least one carrying wheel~~, said drive means being provided with at least one motor unit coupled to a one of said carrying wheels, said motor unit at least substantially being arranged in a hub of a said carrying wheel for driving, and

operating means for operating the drive means,  
wherein the operating means are positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit, and ~~that~~ the operating means are connected to a wheel shaft received in a hub of at least one carrying wheel.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented):     The wheelchair as claimed in claim 18, wherein the operating means comprise at least one operating member for the user, wherein the operating member is positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented):     The wheelchair as claimed in claim 19, wherein the operating means comprise two operating members positioned on either side of the chair unit.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented):     The wheelchair as claimed in claim 19, wherein the operating member is adapted to undergo at least one change in orientation.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended):     The wheelchair as claimed in claim 21, wherein the operating member is adapted to undergo a first change in orientation for

regulating the a displacement speed of the wheelchair, and a second change in orientation for maneuvering of the wheelchair.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The wheelchair as claimed in claim 21, wherein the operating member is displaceable between at least two extreme positions.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The wheelchair as claimed in claim 21, wherein the operating member takes an at least substantially tubular form and is axially rotatable through a determined angle of rotation.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The wheelchair as claimed in claim 21, wherein the operating means comprise at least one sensor connected to the assembly for sensing the change in orientation of the operating member.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The wheelchair as claimed in claim 18, wherein the operating means are adapted for wireless communication with the drive means.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The wheelchair as claimed in claim 18, further comprising a plurality of operating members, wherein the drive means are adapted for independent driving of a plurality of carrying wheels, wherein the operating members are each adapted to control a determined driven carrying wheel.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The wheelchair as claimed in claim 18, wherein at least a part of the operating means is positioned on a side of at least one carrying wheel remote from the chair unit.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The wheelchair as claimed in claim 18, wherein the operating means can be locked in at least one position.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The wheelchair as claimed in claim 18, wherein the operating means are releasably connected to the assembly.

Claim 31 (New): A wheelchair, comprising:

an assembly of a chair unit for a user and a support base supporting the chair unit, wherein the support base is provided with a number of carrying wheels for carrying the assembly,

drive means connected to the assembly for driving at least one carrying wheel, said drive means being provided with at least one motor unit coupled to a carrying wheel, said motor unit at least substantially being arranged in a hub of a carrying wheel for driving, and

operating means for operating the drive means,

wherein the operating means are positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit, and that the operating means are connected to a wheel shaft received in a hub of at least one carrying wheel,

wherein the operating means comprise at least one operating member for the user, wherein the operating member is positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit,

wherein the operating member is adapted to undergo a first change in orientation for regulating the displacement speed of the wheelchair, and a second change in orientation for maneuvering of the wheelchair.

Claim 32 (New): A wheelchair, comprising:

As assembly of a chair unit for a user and a support base supporting the chair unit, wherein the support base is provided with a number of carrying wheels for carrying the assembly,

drive means connected to the assembly for driving at least one carrying wheel, said drive means being provided with at least one motor unit coupled to a carrying wheel, said motor unit at least substantially being arranged in a hub of a carrying wheel for driving, and

operating means for operating the drive means,

wherein the operating means are positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit, and that the operating means are connected to a wheel shaft received in a hub of at least one carrying wheel,

wherein the operating means comprise at least one operating member for the user, wherein the operating member is positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit,

wherein the operating member is adapted to undergo at least one change in orientation,

wherein the operating member is displaceable between at least two extreme positions.

Claim 33 (New): A wheelchair, comprising:

an assembly of a chair unit for a user and a support base supporting the chair unit, wherein the support base is provided with a number of carrying wheels for carrying the assembly,

drive means connected to the assembly for driving at least one carrying wheel, said drive means being provided with at least one motor unit coupled to a carrying wheel, said motor unit at least substantially being arranged in a hub of a carrying wheel for driving, and

operating means for operating the drive means,

wherein the operating means are positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit, and that the operating means are connected to a wheel shaft received in a hub of at least one carrying wheel,

wherein the operating means are adapted for wireless communication with the drive means.